

CHRISTMAS SEASON APPROACHES WITH ITS JOY AND HAPPINESS CONTRASTING AGAINST GLOOM OF THE WAR BURDENED PERIOD OF A YEAR AGO

By OLLIE P. LANDSEN.

AND so the world comes to the Christmas season. How different will life be for everyone this year, compared to the anxiety of last year, when the nation was sending over troops and training camps were full of the youth of the land making ready for a war whose end nobody could predict.

The soldier boy is not yet home and the sailor lad is still on the high seas, but, through their combined efforts the world is safe and little children everywhere may be happy.

Christmas is at once the happiest and saddest of all the holidays. Then it is that memory wanders to happier days, to sadder days, to days when families were united. Had peace not come, and would have been the hearts here at home this year, but, because

of the fact that America's husband, American youth, clean, upright and brave, went forth to do battle, peace has come and mothers are thanking the great Father for the gift they were able to give to their country—those lads who just a very few years ago were making the world ring with firecracker, drum and horn. The same little lads, grown to man's estate, have formed in battle line their little toy soldiers a few Christmas days ago. The sailor lad, who just a short time ago sailed boats in the tub of water, his mother frantic over his taking a possible cold, has sailed bravely over the seas and so helped bring to an end the fighting.

Because all these things are true, that they have aided in every possible way to bring this about, mothers, wives, sisters and sweethearts come to the season with joy and thanksgiving and may fill from tea to champagne, from dinner to reception with gay and carefree hearts.

Every train now is bringing the young soldier folk home for a happy holiday with their parents and friends.

Out at the El Paso School for Girls the pupils whose homes are out of town have left until after the holidays to spend Christmas with their parents. The house girls who are remaining at school are busy with their plans for the giving of joy to the little ones at the Day Nursery.

There are going to be so many interesting social affairs during Christmas week one will scarcely find a spare minute when all these delightful affairs have been attended. Then, too, there are the young folk to be made ready for the school and church entertainments, the final gifts to buy, the house to be put in order, the Christmas decorations and with all the flurry incidental to the happy season, everyone bids fair to be quite overworked and very happy.

The first of the Christmas dances of the army circles will be the one Monday evening at the Khaki club, when folk officers and enlisted personnel of the 3th engineer train entertain. The decorations of the club will be emblematic of the season—among them a tinsel Christmas tree with Santa Claus presiding.

On Tuesday, Christmas eve, Miss Louise Crawford, the charming young daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James Crawford, will give a dance at the Woman's club for a group of school friends.

Christmas day will be quite filled with social affairs. Among them is to be the dinner-dance at the Country club, which always proves a brilliant social event. A number of reservations have already been made and army folk and people from the city will motor out for it, and, as in years previous, Christmas day will be brought to a happy close there by the large number attending.

Prior to the departure of the troops

for overseas duty there were many weddings. Now that the war is over there are rumors of a number of post-war weddings to take place in a short time. One of these will be on Christmas day when Miss Louise Welch, daughter of E. R. Welch, will become the bride of M. Austin Phillips at the Welch home on Rio Grande street. Miss Welch is one of the most popular society girls, and friends are happy that her marriage will not take place away from El Paso.

Among the many beautiful dances to be given during the holidays will be the one on Dec. 25 by Miss Gardner Leaper at the Country club. Invitations are out and the young society set are looking forward to the affair with happy anticipation.

On the evening of the 27th the University club will be the scene of a wonderfully artistic and most delightful snow dance, when the guests will include the members of the club and their wives and friends.

Also on the 27th, the enlisted personnel of the medical corps at Fort Bliss will give a dance at the El Paso home at the post.

With all the social activity there are the benefit entertainments to be given in order that the cause of humanity at home and over the seas may go on. The babies of the Day Nursery and the children of the Rescue Home must have Christmas cheer and El Paso people are responding generously that this may be so.

Christmas will be much happier when one feels that all over the city there is not one of even the least of these neglected.

Lights will shine forth from thousands of windows of the nation's home and from El Paso's home this glad season, throwing into relief the stars in the service flag in the windows symbol of the beautiful fact that a son, a gift for humanity, has been sent forth that there may again be peace on earth and good will toward men, even as the star of Bethlehem shone forth hundreds of years ago that the world might know that the Christ child was born that these principles might live throughout the world.

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MRS. J. ROSS KIRWAN, wife of First Lieut. Kirwan, supply officer of the Fifth cavalry, at Fort Bliss, and her little son, Ross Junior. Mrs. Kirwan is one of the attractive young matrons who help to make social life more happy at the post. She is a Louisville girl and, besides a soldier husband, has two brothers in the army during the war with Germany.

Wade Hampton Chapter, U.D.C., Plans Reception, Returning El Paso Troops

WADE HAMPTON chapter of the U. D. C. met at Trinity Methodist church at 2:30 o'clock Friday afternoon with Mrs. C. E. Bryan, the president, in the chair.

The chief issue of this meeting was the discussion of plans for the reception of the El Paso war veterans on their return home. Plans were made for a jubilee and a request is to be made on mayor Davis for his cooperation in this matter, also other societies in the city will be asked for cooperation at this time. The chapter decided to request representative R. E. Thompson to ask the legislature to have a medal presented to every Texas man who served in the army in this country or overseas.

Should these men have given their life for the cause of democracy, their medals would be presented to their families.

The chapter has written a letter of congratulation and praise to the Boy Scouts of America, which was sent to the most executive, Glen O. Everman, who is the president of the organization.

There will be given by the chapter on January 19, to celebrate Gen. Lee's and Gen. Jackson's birthday anniversaries. Mrs. W. J. Crocker and Mrs. C. J. Huber are on a committee to make the arrangements.

Isachal McKoy, Mrs. C. R. Hill and Mrs. J. T. McLean will be on the refreshment committee for the tea. Mrs. Hadley Sanders, Miss Grace McNeil, Miss Melissa Smith, Miss Vernon Cunningham with Miss Eulah Harper are on the program committee.

Some time in the near future a rummage sale will be held by the members for the benefit of the war relief fund.

Mrs. C. R. Hill is in charge of the sale. The chapter has \$100 to place on deposit, which was raised from the Fifth cavalry entertainment given in Liberty hall in September, to be used for the El Paso, Tex. and in honor of Americans in the service, in Nouilly, France.

A tea will be given on Friday afternoon at 3 o'clock by Mrs. C. E. Bryan, 211 McKinley, which will include officers of the chapter and members of the council board. The council board includes Mrs. R. E. Thompson, Mrs. H. E. Thompson, Mrs. J. T. McLean, Mrs. C. J. Huber, Mrs. C. C. Green, Mrs. Bradford Hardie, Mrs. C. R. Helm, Mrs. J. H. Harper, Mrs. Hadley Sanders, Miss Alice Pittsford, Mrs. S. L. Loomis, Mrs. C. W. Crook and Mrs. J. H. Cunningham.

The report of the death of Miss Byrd Ferguson, charter member of the chapter, was made to the members.

The Children of the Confederacy will have a meeting during the holidays. It was decided.

Memorial services were held Friday afternoon for Miss Mary Costin Lee, last of the children of Gen. Robert E. Lee, who died at Hot Springs, Va., during November.

The Parent-Teachers' association of the high school held a meeting in the auditorium of the high school Friday afternoon. In the absence of the president, Mrs. D. D. Howe, Mrs. N. Lapowski presided. After the business session, Mrs. George Rutledge spoke on "The attitude of the parent on the high school as a social center."

Mrs. Rutledge stated that she had interviewed a number of the parents and that all of them agreed that the high school should be a social center, but that there were three views on the subject of allowing dancing in the school—those who were unconditionally opposed, those who thought dancing permissible but thought that it should be kept out of the school, and those who thought properly chaperoned dances should be allowed.

Mrs. Tom Watson spoke very forcibly against the dance. Charles Kennedy and Miss Gertrude Evans, of the faculty, spoke in favor of supervised dances at the school. Mrs. J. J. Ayers spoke in favor of allowing uplifting entertainments without the dance and commended the high school for the high character of the entertainments given this year. Rev. Percy Knickerbocker, representing an invalid mother, he said, spoke against dancing in any way. Others who spoke were divided on the question. Several students also took part in the discussion.

Tea was served by Miss Margaret Le Baron, assisted by some of the girls of the domestic science classes. Mrs. Horace B. Stevens and Mrs. N. Lapowski poured.

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Harmony Chapter, Order of Eastern Star, Has Banquet In Honor of Visitor

HARMONY chapter No. 244, Order of the Eastern Star, held a regular meeting on Thursday evening at Masonic temple. A distinguished visitor "escorted east" was Mrs. Margaret E. Cavin, supreme worthy high priestess of the White Shrine of Jerusalem. She was a guest in the city for the purpose of instituting the Dove Shrine, recently organized by Mrs. Charles Hader. Mrs. Cavin is past matron of Rose chapter, O. E. S., of Pittsburgh, Pa., also past grand Adah, Martha and Electa. She gave a most interesting talk of her appreciation of having the privilege of attending an O. E. S. meeting in the Masonic temple, as the Eastern Stars in the state of Pennsylvania are not recognized by the Masonic order.

The social hour which followed the meeting held in the banquet hall was attended by 150 guests. Mrs. W. J. Pickering, as chairman of the arrangement committee, presented a most interesting program at this time. A number of small children from a distant room sang Christmas carols during the banquet when the table was beautifully decorated with Christmas emblems, each plate having for a favor tiny American flags.

Toasts were given. Mrs. Elsie Forbes being toastmaster. Rev. Fuller Swift gave a toast to "our victorious army." Rev. Henry Pope Hoad gave a toast to "1918." Rev. W. S. Huggett, a toast to Harmony chapter.

Receptions.

The Dove shrine of the order of the White shrine will hold a regular stated meeting on Christmas evening in the I. O. O. F. hall. The social which was to have been given on this night has been postponed until a later date.

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